Capital investment in Agriculture Sector

†2131. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the task force constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture for structural marketing has identified the agriculture sector as the key to development of the country and has pointed out the scope for additional capital investment to the tune of Rs. 2,68,742 crore in this sector during the ensuing ten years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a great stress has been laid upon motivating the cooperative and private sectors for such a gigantic investment into agro-sector; and

(c) if so, what are the details of decision taken by Government in regard to the fact narrated in parts (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) An Expert Committee on Strengthening and Developing of Agricultural Marketing appointed by this Ministry has in its report, estimated an investment potential of Rs. 268742.00 crores during the next ten years for improvement of Agricultural Marketing infrastructure in the country.

(b) The Committee has recommended involvement of private sector in development of marketing infrastructure. It has estimated potential investment of Rs. 1,36,430 crore from the private sector out of the total estimated investment of Rs. 2,68,472 crore for development of marketing infrastructure. The Expert Committee has also recommended involvement of cooperatives as also the joint sector, farmers, organization, self help groups, etc. in many areas of agricultural marketing.

(c) An Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted by the Government in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation to examine the recommendations and suggest measures for the

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†Orginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have also been requested to examine the recommendations of the Expert Committee and provide their feedback to the Task Force on the implementation of the recommendations.

Hike in export subsidies for farmers in Andhra Pradesh

2132. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged to consider a hike in export subsidies for farmers; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

QRT report on IASRI

2133. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the QRT report for the period 1987—95 of Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) under IACR was highly critical of the Institute's performance and competence in the area of computing science;

(b) whether QRT also advised IASRI to orient towards developmental work, develop competence in designing and maintaining online data-bases and play a primary role, rather than being just a facilitator; and

(c) if so, the details of developmental work completed and the on-line data bases created, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of Information Systems have been developed and some are in pipeline as mentioned below: